

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/774,112

Examiner

Lin Ye

Applicant(s)

NOMURA ET AL.

Art Unit

2615

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment filed on 15 October 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-31.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 31 January 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-31 allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding claims 1-31, Applicant's amendment filed on 10/15/04 has been fully considered and they are persuasive.

Referring to claims 1 and 13, the examiner agrees the Nomura reference (5,748,388) fail to teach or suggest that the first and second barrels are moveable in the optical axis direction while being ~~rotatable together about~~ ^{about} said optical axis as recited in the claims 1 and 13.

Regarding claims 1-21, the prior art does not teach or fairly suggest a zoom lens barrel comprising a first barrel having said cam groove on an inner peripheral surface thereof; and a second barrel which is fitted on a front part of an outer peripheral surface of said first barrel, said first barrel and second barrel being movable in said optical axis direction with a predetermined clearance there between in the optical axis direction while being rotatable together about said optical axis, so that an external force applied to said zoom lens from the outside of said zoom lens is transmitted to said first barrel via said second barrel as recited in the independent claims 1 and 13.

Regarding claims 22-31, the prior art does not teach or fairly suggest the prior art does not teach or fairly suggest zoom lens comprising: a plurality of lens groups which are moved with respect to each other to change a focal length of said zoom lens; a movable hood barrel guided in a direction of an optical axis; an inward pin fixed to said movable hood barrel, said inward pin projecting radically inwards; a cam barrel which is positioned inside said movable

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hood barrel to be rotatable about said optical axis; and a guide groove formed on an outer peripheral surface of said cam barrel, said inward pin being engaged with said guide groove so that said movable hood barrel moves in said optical axis direction by rotation of said cam barrel as recited in the independent claims 22, 28 and 30.

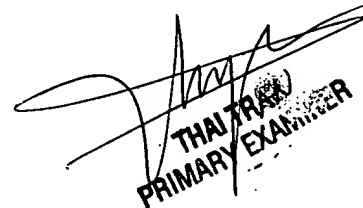
Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.
 - a. Onda U.S. 6,163,412 discloses a zoom lens barrel assembly for zooming and focusing.
 - b. Nomura et al. U.S. 6,369,962 discloses a zoom lens barrel includes a first cylindrical member have first and second bottomed grooves.
4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lin Ye whose telephone number is (703) 305-3250. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 8:00AM-5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's acting supervisor, Thai Tran can be reached on (703) 305-4725. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink is written over a rectangular stamp. The stamp contains the text "THAI TRAM" on the top line and "PRIMARY EXAMINER" on the bottom line, both in a bold, sans-serif font.

Lin Ye
February 18, 2005